

which already achieved the export targets for conversion into major ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There are about 139 working minor/intermediate ports in the country. The state-wise distribution of these ports is as follows:

(1)	Gujarat	39
(2)	Maharashtra	48
(3)	Karnataka	21
(4)	Kerala	13
(5)	Tamil Nadu	8
(6)	Pondicherry	1
(7)	Andhra Pradesh	7
(8)	Orissa	2
		139

(b) and (c). In the 7th Five-Year Plan, the Central Government had kept a provision of Rs. 20.00 crores for financial assistance for the development of minor ports. However, there was no release of funds to the maritime States for this purpose.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) There is no proposal at present for Central Government to convert any minor port into a major port.

[Translation]

Exports from tribal and hilly areas

3765. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will

the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there are exportable items in abundance in tribal and hilly areas particularly in Jaharkhand region;

(b) if so, the details thereof of such items; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to boost export of these items?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) to (c). A large number of items are classified as Minor Forest Produce. These items relate mainly to tree/plants and other produce. Apart from tree/plants items this classification also includes animal/bird and items based on them. However, the contribution of these items in terms of foreign exchange earnings is not very significant. Minor Forest Produce items are allowed for exports on merits.

[English]

Incentives to Exporters

3766. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that as a result of hike in tariff in the Indian Railways in the Budget proposals for year 1992-93, there will be shortfalls in the export of a number of items due to increase in their costs;

(b) if so, whether in a bid to encourage exports to earn much needed foreign exchanges, the Government propose to give some incentives to exporters to compensate hiked tariff;